



COT Security Alert – State Journal Ad Server Infection

The COT Security Administration Branch has become aware of an incident affecting the Frankfort State Journal website in which one of the advertisement servers, powered by a third-party company, was detected serving malware. The installation of the malware from the infected ad server did not require any additional interaction by the user other than simply loading the State Journal's web page during the brief time period when the infected ads were served. The State Journal has reported that this incident has been resolved and the ad server is no longer infected by the malware.

This sort of attack is common and many large web sites, even commonly "trusted" sites, have fallen prey to the same sort of attack. These sites do not manage the ad servers but rely on third-party companies. Users should be aware of the threats and watch out for signs of their machine becoming infected. Signs of infection including sluggishness, unexpected homepages and toolbars, unexpected reboots, etc. should be reported to an IT administrator immediately.

Preventive IT measures include:

- Using an advertisement blocker.
- Disabling scripting within your browser. (This involves settings changes for Internet Explorer or a plug-in for Firefox or Chrome).
- Running with least privileges required on your machine at all times.
- Using caution while surfing or browsing on the Internet.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

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